(a) whether Government is implementing a scheme on social forestry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme is being implemented in Goa;

(d) whether any financial assistance is given to Goa Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not implementing any scheme on social forestry.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Report on missing tigers

1096. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report of Wildlife Institute of India, 164 tigers are missing in Uttar Pradesh in the past four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As per the findings of the recent All India estimation in 2008, jointly done by the Wildlife Institute of India and the National Tiger Conservation Authority, using the refined methodology, the estimated population of tigers in Uttar Pradesh is 109 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 91 and 127 respectively. The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 1091 Part (c).]

Carbon capture and storage facility

1097. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State run power utilities and independent power producers have objected to the installation of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facility since it would increase the cost of capital nearly by 150 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such cost would cause burden on the consumers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to minimize the cost of installation of CCS in the Central and State run power utilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government after discussing with power utilities have concluded that installation of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facilities in the power stations is economically not viable due to capital additional cost involved with CO_2 capture, transportation and storage. This would also increase the cost of electricity generation by more than 100% and the residential and industrial consumers may find it unaffordable.

(c) The Government has taken a considered stand that there will be no installation of CCS in the Central and State run power utilities in the short term. However, the Government of India would be ready to depute engineers and scientists of CCS locations abroad for training and capacity building.

Illegal mining in Orissa

†1098. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that a lot of illegal mining work is undergoing in Orissa without forest clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is also aware about the adverse impact of these illegal mining activities on environment; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent it, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The information is being collected from the State Government of Orissa and will be laid on the table of the House after compilation of the same.

Melting of Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier

1099. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier in Sikkim is receding very fast;

(b) if so, the details of any study conducted in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that fast melting of Mt. Kanchanzanga glacier can cause scarcity of water in the region; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government for the conservation of the glacier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The studies conducted by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.